

*Original*

and a center situated there between, at least one set of strut members having at least half of the curved sections within the set of strut members having a tapered shape wherein the width at the center of a curved section with a tapered shape is greater than the width at the ends of a curved section with tapered shape such that the curved section tapers outwardly from its center.

- Amended*
25. A stent in the form of a thin-walled, multi-cellular, tubular structure having a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising a multiplicity of circumferential sets of strut members to form a ring around the circumference of the strut, each set of strut members being longitudinally separated each from the other around the stent, at least one set of strut members connected by a curved section having a tapered shape wherein the width at the center of a curved section with a tapered shape is greater than the width at the ends of a strut portion with a curved section.